pensation, we will not have to spend a large amount for acquisition purpose.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will this road be taken up early?

President.—The Agricultural Superintendent says that he will consider the matter.

Construction of a road from Melur to Muringur.

266. **Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House whether any steps have yet been taken towards starting the construction of a road from the ferry opposite to His Highness the 4th Prince's Palace at Melur to Muringur village to connect the Chalakkudi road at 20/4, for which provision has already been made in the budget of 1104; if not, why not; will not the amount lapse at the end of the year, if the work is not carried out during the year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes. Necessary levels and cross sections have been taken and the estimate for the work is under preparation.

It is expected that the work will be started and the whole allotment utilised this year. If, however, it be found not possible to utilise the whole allotment, the balance amount required for the completion of the work will be provided in the budget for 1105.

Check-measurement of the Narakkal canal.

267. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the report of the Chief Engineer regarding the Narakkal canal referred to in question 74 of the Legislative Session of Vrischigam 1104 has reached the Government; if so, will a copy be placed on the Table;

(b) did the Chief Engineer find any discrepancies on check-measuring the same; if so, what action was taken?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes. The report is confidential and cannot, therefore, be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Some discrepancies in the quantity of earthwork billed for were noticed. The discrepancies were corrected as far as possible and the accounts of the contractor closed.

268. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to place on the Table of the House the report to the Government by the Engineering Department after the check-measurement of the Narakkal canal referred to in the answer to question No. 74 of the Legislative Session of 1104?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 267.

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Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know what was the difference noticed in the quantity of earthwork on inspection by the Chief Engineer and that submitted in the Audit Reports of the Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The difference noticed was about Rs. 1,500 worth of earthwork.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.— Was any action taken against the Assistant Engineer?

President.—It is a matter under consideration.

Mr. C. A Kunjunni Raja.—At what stage is that consideration?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I submitted a report to Government and it is kept confidential.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Was any action taken against the Assistant Engineer ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That is under consideration.

Keeping of accounts by toddy shop-keepers.

269. Mr. K. T. Mathew.— Will the Government be pleased to mention that as promised by the Superintendent of Excise in the Legislative Council on 16th Karkadagam 1101, the question "whether toddy shop-keepers also should be made to maintain accounts as in the case of arrack shop-keepers" has been considered and if so, what steps have been taken in the matter, and if no steps have been taken, what is the reason for it ?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—The matter was considered. It was found very difficult to get correct accounts maintained in toddy shops.

Lease of the Tramway.

270. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(a) whether the Tramway Engineer Mr. King has applied to the Government for leasing the Tramway to him ;

(b) what are the terms proposed by him ;

(c) what has been done with his proposal for taking the Tramway on lease ;

(d) when was the proposal received by the Government?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Copy of the terms is placed on the Council Table.

(c) Government thought it inexpedient and inadvisable to lease the Tramway and decided to work it as a Government concern.

(d) 25th May 1928.

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